

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A loading apparatus, comprising:
a main frame supported by a plurality of wheels, the main frame including a pair of spaced-apart supports arms extending in a longitudinal direction of the loading apparatus;
a lifting frame pivotally attached to said main frame, said lifting frame including a lever arm and a pair of spaced-apart lifting arms operably connected thereto, the pair of spaced-apart lifting arms extending in the longitudinal direction of the loading apparatus, the pair of spaced-apart arms of the lifting frame in conjunction with the pair of spaced-apart support arms of the main frame defining a spool receiving volume in the rear of the loading apparatus;
a support rack attached to said lifting arms, said support rack comprising a pair of spaced-apart rack members, said rack members being configured to support a spool, each rack member extending mainly vertically from one of the lifting arms; and
a connecting device for connecting said lifting frame to the main frame to prevent pivoting movement of said lifting frame,
wherein the rear of said loading apparatus is open to afford the loading, transporting, and unloading of spools.

2. (Original) The loading system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one jack stand attached to said main frame for stabilizing said loading apparatus when not connected to a towing vehicle.

3. (Original) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said main frame includes a tongue with a hitch mounted at the front of said tongue for towing said loading apparatus.

4. (Original) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said connecting device comprises a U-shaped yoke fastened to a vertical support member extending upwardly from said main frame, and a pin for interconnecting said U-shaped yoke to said lifting arm.

5. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein said main frame ~~including~~ includes a tongue operably connected to the and a pair of spaced-apart support arms ~~operably connected thereto~~.

6. (Original) The loading system according to claim 5, wherein each of said support arms includes a pair of fulcrum arms extending upwardly diagonally therefrom.

7. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 6, further comprising a trapezoidal plate joining upper ends of said fulcrum arms, wherein said fulcrum arms form a triangle wherein two bottom corners of said triangle are fastened to the ~~trailer~~ main frame and said trapezoidal plate is at an apex of said triangle.

8. (Original) The loading system of claim 7, wherein said trapezoidal plates have holes drilled, cast, cut or stamped in them to accommodate a pin and to function as a fulcrum.

9. (Original) The loading system of claim 1, wherein each of said rack members includes a plurality of U-shaped pockets at various heights along said rack members, the pockets forming a resting and securing place for ends of spindles upon which spools are positioned.

10. (Original) The loading system of claim 9, wherein said pockets are of a plurality of sizes to accommodate various spool and spindle diameters.

11. (Currently Amended) The loading system of claim 1, wherein a spool may be secured in position on a spindle using locking and centering collars ~~or lynch pins~~ on both sides of the spool.

12. (Currently Amended) The loading system of claim ~~19~~, wherein each of said rack members includes a locking device and a securing rack for holding the spindles in said pockets.

13. (Original) The loading system of claim 12, wherein said securing rack is kept in position by the locking device which is spring loaded to hold it in a desired position, either locking, engaged, unlocked, or disengaged.

14. (Currently Amended) The loading system of claim 3, wherein said main frame includes a horizontal lateral cross member interconnecting forward ends of said ~~main frames~~ spaced-apart support arms and to which a rearward end of said tongue is attached.

15. (Currently Amended) The loading system of claim 1, wherein said lifting frame includes a horizontal lateral cross member interconnecting forward ends of said spaced-apart lifting arms and to which a rearward end of said lever arm is attached.

16. (Original) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein the loading system is adapted to carry bales, the bales being held in place by bale penetrating bars.

17. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 16, wherein said bars are ~~supports~~ supported by the pockets in ~~along~~ the rack members.

18. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 1, wherein the loading system is adapted to carry bales, the bales being held in place by bale engaging and holding members, which are rotatably mounted on ~~the~~ aspinde bars and are held in place by ~~the spindle~~ collars.

19. (Currently Amended) The loading system according to claim 18, wherein the engaging and holding members are rotatable over the spindle bars ~~allowing the bale to unroll.~~

20. (Canceled).